

## MILITARY NURSING SCHOOL APPROVAL

Applicants for the nursing license must graduate from a board-approved school of nursing.

A “board approved school” means an institution located in the United States, a US territory, or a province of Canada which has a school college program or department of nursing which meets standards of the board or holds accreditation by a board-recognized accreditation agency. [N2.02(2)]

The Wisconsin Board of Nursing directly approves all nursing programs with campuses in the State of Wisconsin. For those U.S. nursing programs outside the state, the Board recognizes the approval of the board of nursing of the state where the program is physically based. Otherwise, for foreign schools, the Board relies on the Council on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools.

Some military nursing programs have obtained approval from their state board of nursing. Graduates wishing to apply based on their military education must determine from their school if it was approved by the state board at the time they went to school. As part of the individual’s application for license, the school must attest to having this approval from the local state board.

Wisconsin does not permit military graduates who have not graduated from an approved school to “challenge” the NCLEX examination (i.e., take the examination without the education qualification). Also not permitted is to substitute on-the-job experience for education.

However, there are options available for those with military training and experience to build on that training and experience and achieve the equivalent of approved education.

Excelsior College offers a primarily on-line associate degree nursing program approved by the State of New York Board of Nursing and accredited by the National League for Nursing Accreditation Council.

The college accepts certain classifications of military corpsman into the associate degree program, and grants credit by test-out examinations as well as providing advice to military personnel on courses and training still needed, and access to veterans education benefits. Contact them at 888-647-2388, or online at <http://www.excelsior.edu>. Once on the main page, find School of Nursing, and also Military Programs (bottom of page) for more information.

It is also possible to apply and return to school in an approved nursing program in Wisconsin. See the list of approved programs at <http://drl.wi.gov/dept/forms/nurschool.pdf>.